

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 ACDA-12
OMB-01 TRSE-00 /109 W
-----019024 011820Z /53

R 010915Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5714
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY JIDDAH
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 4228

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CD, US
SUBJ: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD

SUMMARY: I SAW VICE PRESIDENT DJIME ON NOVEMBER 29
AND FONMIN KAMOUGUE NOVEMBER 30 IN REGARD TO OUR
MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. BOTH STRESSED THE
CONTINUED URGENCY OF CHAD'S NEED. DJIME
CONFIRMED THAT NEGOTIATIONS WITH REBEL LEADER
HISSAN HABRE WERE PROGRESSING WELL. KAMOUGUE
BRIEFED ME ON HIS REQUESTS FOR THE TRANSFER OF
AMERICAN EQUIPMENT FROM SEOUL (LUKEWARM
RECEPTION) AND FROM TEHRAN (MUCH MORE POSITIVE).
HE ALSO STATED THAT HE WAS STILL CONFUSED OVER
THE FAILURE OF SAUDI ARABIA TO BE OF ASSISTANCE.
BOTH DJIME AND KAMOUGUE HOPED THAT WE WOULD
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NOW BE IN A POSITION TO ACTIVELY PURSUE THEIR
REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN SEOUL AND TEHRAN. IN
THE MEANTIME NDJAMENA IS SUFFERING FROM A BAD
CASE OF SECURITY JITTERS. END SUMMARY

1. VICE PRESIDENT DJIME, WHO IS MORE AND MORE
ASSUMING THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S CHIEF

NEGOTIATOR WITH THE REBELS, CONFIRMED TO ME THAT HE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM ANOTHER SESSION WITH HISSAN HABRE IN EASTERN CHAD AND THAT THEIR NEGOTIATIONS WERE PROGRESSING WELL ON MILITARY ASSISTANCE. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT NOW THAT MINISTER KAMOUQUE HAD MADE THE INITIAL APPROACHES TO SOUTH KOREA AND IRAN FOR THE TRANSFER OF AMERICAN EQUIPMENT, WE COULD TAKE THE MATTER IN HAND.

2. FONMIN KAMOUQUE SAID THAT HE HAD PRESENTED CHAD'S REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN SEOUL AND THAT WHILE THE LATTER HAD LISTENED ATTENTIVELY, HE HAD COMMITTED HIMSELF NO FURTHER THAN TO SAY THEY WOULD CONSIDER THE MATTER. ON THE OTHER HAND, KAMOUQUE SAID THAT FOREIGN MINISTER OF IRAN, WHOM HE HAD SEEN IN PARIS, HAD BEEN MUCH MORE OUTGOING AND HAD PROMISED TO TRY TO ASSIST CHAD IN REPELLING LIBYAN AGGRESSION. KAMOUQUE SAID HE HAD NOT HAD A COPY OF CHAD'S SHOPPING LIST WITH HIM IN PARIS BUT THAT HE HAD ARRANGED TO HAVE AMBASSADOR GABA DELIVER A COPY TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHEN THE LATTER WAS IN WASHINGTON IN CONNECTION WITH SHAH'S VISIT. KAMOUQUE STRESSED THAT NOW THAT CHAD HAD MADE THE

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OPENING OVERTURES WHICH WE HAD REQUESTED, HE HOPED WE WOULD PUSH HARD TO SEE THAT SOME CONCRETE RESULTS WERE FORTHCOMING. I ASSURED HIM WE WERE PREPARED TO DO SO, BUT CAUTIONED THAT I COULD NOT PROMISE THAT CHADIANS WOULD RECEIVE ALL THE ASSISTANCE THEY DESIRED. IN CONCLUSION, KAMOUQUE SAID HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE CHANGE IN POSITION OF SAUDI ARABIA. HE SAID THE KING HAD PERSONALLY PROMISED HIM SUPPORT AND THAT THE CHADIAN AMBASSADOR WAS STILL GETTING GO-AHEAD SIGNALS FROM HIS SAUDI CONTACT. KAMOUQUE WONDERED ALOUD IF THE NEGATIVE REACTION WE HAVE RECEIVED HAD BEEN MADE BY LOWER LEVEL BUREAUCRATS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO THE KING. I OFFERED NO OPINION.

3. (FYI FIRST PUBLIC MENTION IN CHAD OF POSSIBLE US MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS MADE IN PRESS INTERVIEW BY KAMOUQUE NOVEMBER 28 ON HIS RETURN. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF US ASSISTANCE HE SAID QUOTE AS REGARDS AMERICAN

MILITARY ASSISTANCE, YOU KNOW THAT THIS AID IS SUBJECT TO MANY CRITERIA THAT I WILL NOT BOTHER TO CITE HERE. IN ANY CASE, IF U.S. AGREES TO COME TO OUR AID, TO GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT WE WILL ACCEPT THIS HELP WHOLEHEARTEDLY. UNQUOTE. HE ALSO NOTED THAT HE HAD TALKED TO SOUTH KOREANS ABOUT MILITARY ASSISTANCE.)

4. IN THE MEANTIME, NDJAMENA ITSELF IS SUFFERING FROM A CASE OF SECURITY JITTERS. FIRING BROKE OUT AT AIRPORT ON MONDAY NIGHT. KAMOUGUE INFORMED ME IT WAS MERELY SENTRIES FIRING AT THRESPASSERS BUT OTHER LOCAL SOURCES ASCRIBE IT ALTERNATIVELY TO AN ATTEMPT TO BLOW UP
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CHADIAN AIR FORCE PLANES OR AN ATTEMPT TO SABOTAGE PRESIDENT MALLOUM'S PLANE BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION MEETING IN NIGERIA. REGARDLESS OF THE REASON FOR THE FIRING, THE AIRPORT AND OTHER STRATEGIC POINTS IN THE CITY HAVE BEEN REINFORCED AND NERVOUS SENTRIES HAVE BEEN CUTTING LOOSE AT SHADOWS FOR THE PAST THREE NIGHTS.

5. COMMENT: NOW THAT CHADIANS HAVE FORMALLY PRESENTED THEIR REQUEST FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THEIR SHOPPING LISTS AS WE SUGGESTED, I HOPE WE CAN SEE TO IT THAT SOMETHING HAPPENS. PERHAPS THE BEST RESPONSE AT THIS MOMENT WOULD BE SOME SORT OF VEHICLES FOR THE "INTERVENTION BATTALION" BEING ARMED BY THE FRENCH (REFTEL 4175). SUCH EQUIPMENT WOULD BE NON-LETHAL, OF GREAT USE TO THE CHADIANS, READILY AVAILABLE AND VISIBLE. IN ADDITION IT WOULD DEMONSTRATE OUR CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE FRENCH. BRADFORD

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Subject: MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO CHAD SUMMARY: I SAW VICE PRESIDENT DJIME ON NOVEMBER 29 AND FONMIN KAMOUQUE NOVEMBER 30 IN REGARD TO OUR
TAGS: MOPS, PINS, CD, US
To: STATE
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vdkgvkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9ff4cefb-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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